PUDUKKOTTAI STATE

WAR INFORMATION BUREAU

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LECTURE LXXIX.

INDIA'S WAR POTENTIAL.

TWO YEARS EXPANSION.

A GREAT FUTURE.

War, it goes without saying, is a wicked thing. Everybody is agreed about that; but there are worse misfortunes. A dictated peace, for instance, or a herd-like existence where you think, pray (or refrain from praying) and breed to dictation. For waging war, however, you need guns *and* butter, and lots of other things besides. And of these necessaries we were hopelessly short when the war began. Indian defence had been organised only with an eye to internal needs; the North-West Frontier was the limit of territory to which Indian defence was supposed to extend. The requirements of the Frontier set the pace and programme of Indian defence organisation. To meet foreign aggression, or to meet a highly mechanised modern army—let us say it and be done with it—we were wholly unprepared. (So was BRITAIN, but that is hardly any consolation).

As in BRITAIN, however, two years have worked a miracle. That INDIA would be threatened was soon anticipated, and that the threat should be forestalled and faced at points as far removed as ADEN and the Persian Gulf and SINGAPORE recognised as a cardinal factor of Indian defence. Work was begun on that footing. Valuable time had been

lost, and we had to make up for the years which had been food for the locust. And we made up for it; we, so to speak, skipped a generation and fitted both our existing and growing army with the best modern equipment, and mechanised it in the most up-to-date manner. There is no gainsaying the fact that at the moment INDIA's military star is in the ascendant. For this truly remarkable achievement, we have to thank God, the military experts—and Hitler.

In 1939, the Indian Army had not proceeded far beyond the point where Lord Kitchener's reforms had left it. Within eight months of the beginning of the present war, about 53,000 more men were enrolled. An ambitious programme of recruitment was taken in hand and resolutely adhered to. The handicaps were many and great. There were what appeared to be well-nigh insuperable difficulties in the way of providing instructors and the trained personnel necessary to form the backbone of the new units. Yet in spite of all this, as many as 100,000 men were recruited before the end of the first year. The original plan was to enroll half a million men before the end of 1941, but the pace of recruitment was so rapid that the million mark was in sight before the year had run itself out. Now recruitment is proceeding at the rate of 50,000 a month. Already 200,000 men are serving abroad, and as we have heard have covered themselves with distinction in different parts of the far-flung battle-line.

War has led to the abandonment of many time-worn creeds and shibboleths. The easy assumption that certain classes alone had a place in the army, and that others were militarily negligible, has been given up and the army is now thrown open to all comers. The Indian Territorial Force, normally a peace-time body designed in the event of war to take over garrisoning and internal defence duties, so as to relieve the regulars for service in the field, were able to present a case for their employment abroad, and their conditions of service were suitably altered. New units were formed, and of these the 'Terriers' were the central core and backbone. To us in this part of the world it was a special pleasure to see thus revived the old Madras Regiment, formed with men of the Territorials as the nucleus.

Training schools were established to train recruits and lick them into shape as expeditiously as possible. The easy routine of peace-time gave place to the intensive training which the imminence of war rendered necessary. The Indian Military Academy was expanded so as

to give instruction to 600 students, instead of 200 and the Officers' Training Schools at MHOW and BANGALORE were similarly expanded. An Initial Training School was opened at LAHORE to give what are known as 'pre-cadet training courses' to recruits who were not physically fit, or otherwise not quite up to the mark. A school on the same lines was established at INDORE to train students from the Indian States. Recently we had the pleasure of listening to Lt-Col. Harvey of the Indian Political Service, and of learning at first hand of the enthusiasm displayed by young men of the non-military classes to join up, and of their keenness and efficiency when enrolled.

One very pleasing change is the abolition of the distinction between totally 'Indianised' units and the rest. All branches of the Indian Army are now thrown open to Indian commissioned officers, a reform long overdue, and based on common military experience that when Indian and British troops are brigaded together, the whole machinery works like well-oiled clockwork without any jar or clash in its operation.

The Indian Army has a truly magnificent record. On their regimental colours are inscribed not merely Laswari, Sobraon and Mandalay, but names from beyond the seas as well, Armentieres, La Bassée, Festubert, all the terrain from "Wipers" to Verdun, and of battle-fields in EGYPT and IRAQ. To these will now be added BARDIA, BENGHAZI, SIDI BARRANI, KEREN and DAMASCUS, and we need have no doubt that even more historic victories will grace their colours before the war is over.

For courage and fidelity, the Indian soldier is hard to beat. History has recorded, at least, one instance of chivalry and self-abnegation which rivals the gallantry of Sir Philip Sidney's famous surrender of his water-jug. When supplies ran short at the seige of ARCOT, Indian sepoys, mostly Madrassis, contented their starving frames with the rice-water, and made over the sustaining grains of rice to their British comrades. Similarly to-day, in the field of battle, they display a magnificent unconcern of death. In SIMLA, the other day, I met a man, one in the know. He said that British officers are daily amazed at the utter indifference to death of the Indian fighting man. It is not as if they just clenched their teeth and steeled themselves to go through with it; rather it was as though they considered death was a mere ceasing-to-be, and nothing to worry about! Impressed, but unable to evolve anything but the dullest common place to express my delighted pride, I said, "Is'nt it wonderful?" "Not at all" said my friend, "It is the philosophy of the ages".

He was right. It was the Bhagavad Gita bred into their bones. For what is death? "Going from this room to the next?" No, not even that. Merely a casting off of an old garment and assuming another.

The Navy. On the walls of a certain Naval College in ENGLAND is inscribed the legend, "There is nothing the Navy cannot do." British history justifies the proud boast, and if one may venture on prophecy, the day is not far off when it will come to be applied to the Indian Navy. The Indian Navy has not been in the public eye; it has been too small, too exiguous to travel into the limelight, a Cinderella of the services; but it is now beginning to come into its own. It may not be generally known that there is a definite Indian naval tradition which goes back to 1612. Since 1877, there has been a regular Indian Marine, which, in 1892, came to be known as the Royal Indian Marine. After the Great War, it was felt that the question of Indian naval expansion should be seriously tackled, Lord Rawlinson's Committee went into it and made certain recommendations, which however got hung up until 1934, when at last the necessary legislation was passed, to constitute the Indian Navy as a combatant force. Till the war came it is true the R. I. N. were employed only for local defence, but since 1939 they have assumed far wider responsibilities. Its personnel has gone up by leaps and bounds; new sloops and vessels have been added. It has already done splendid service in the way of patrolling the seas and anti-submarine work; and its operations have spread as far afield as ADEN and the Persian Gulf. It assisted most valorously in bringing about the downfall of Mussolini's Abyssinian empire, and a ship of the Royal Indian Navy was the first to enter the port of MASSAWA. May I give a few more details to show how admirably Indian naval forces have been operating in distant seas. In March 1941, they took part in the operations which resulted in the reoccupation of BERBARA. The H. M. I. S. "*Netravati*" and "*Parvati*" helped in the reconquest of British SOMALILAND. They played a very important and useful part in the Eritrean campaign, and H. M. I. S. "*Clive*"—in which a PUDUKKOTTAI lad was serving before he unfortunately lost his life in an accident—distinguished herself in this campaign. In the IRAN campaign, the Royal Indian Navy was employed in the transport of troops, and in the operations which led to the capture of ABADAN and BANDAR SHAHPUR. The "*Lilavati*" and the "*Lawrence*" took part in these operations, and the latter ship greatly distinguished herself at BANDAR SHAHPUR.

The fact that very few casualties occurred during these operations is testimony to the efficiency, keenness and expert seamanship of Indian naval men. In short, the Indian Navy has done well so far, that confidence that they will play their part manfully and usefully in the trying times ahead is fully justified.

From the outbreak of war, expansion took place very rapidly. Fast sea-going motor boats for coastal patrol and other vessels began to be built in Indian ship-building yards. H. M. I. S. "*Travancore*" and the H. M. I. S. "*Baroda*," for instance, were built in Indian yards, and other war vessels of the same pattern are being built. New naval bases are being developed at COCHIN and VIZAGAPATAM, and from these as well as from the older ports of MADRAS, KARACHI, BOMBAY and CALCUTTA, anti-submarine and mine-sweeping work is being carried on.

The notable increase in personnel of the Royal Indian Navy has necessitated special arrangement for training schools. Early in 1940, a land school was set up at MANORA, near KARACHI. After a period of training ashore, the lads are further trained in ships till they get their sea-legs. Gunnery and signal schools have been expanded, and since the war began thousands of officers and men have passed through them: engineers, navigators, torpedo-specialists, and every grade of technician and clerk, report at naval bases and join ship in a steady stream.

Indian merchant-shipping too has already played a notable part in the war. Imports for war purposes have naturally increased enormously, and our merchant-ships have brought them in with very little loss of life or cargo. A great responsibility has thus been thrown on Indian docks and shipyards, and they have undoubtedly played an important part in overcoming the menace of the magnetic mine by the method known as "degaussing"—a device by which the hulls of ships are equipped with mechanism counter-acting the magnetism of the ship. INDIA herself manufactures the special cable required for "degaussing", and 263 ships had been 'degaussed' in Indian docks before the cold weather of 1941. By about the same time 168 ships had been fitted with defensive armament, and 106 ships had been fitted with paravanes against underwater attack. In addition, the establishment of an Indian-owned ship-building yard in INDIA has been sanctioned, and the well-known Indian Scindia Steam Navigation Company, who have first-class experience of shipping matters, have obtained a lease of a site at VIZAGAPATAM. They hope to launch their first ship from this yard early this year.

Air Force. As I said before, in defence organisation we have skipped a generation. Other countries developed their fighting services in dignified sequence. In INDIA the perfecting of the fighting machine in all its arms started with a rush. It is still going on. Indians are learning to march, swim and fly at the same time.

In 1940, air expansion was taken in hand, and the aim was to produce four squadrons of three flights each before the end of March 1942. Here again the pace of progress was handicapped by lack of sufficient aircraft, and of skilled ground staff and instructors. But these difficulties have been overcome, and it is expected that we shall very soon have ten squadrons. In 1940, twenty-four Indian pilots were sent to BRITAIN to serve in the Royal Air Force. Since the war broke out competition for enrolment on both flying and ground staff has been very keen, and recruitment to the Indian Air Force Volunteer Reserve has been placed on a war basis. Training Schools have been established at LAHORE, AMBALA, BEGUMPET, and JODHPUR, where recruits receive training in Aeronautical Mathematics and in handling and repair of aircraft engines, while the theory of aerial navigation is specially taught at LAHORE, where the recruits are also given a grounding in administration, law and armament. They finish their course at the Service Flying Training School, AMBALA.

A beginning has now been made in the direction of manufacturing aircraft in INDIA. In 1941 a fighter-aeroplane was fitted up in BANGALORE, and the same factory hope for an output of a plane a day by the end of this year. Subsidiary industries, such as the production of high octane-value aviation spirit from Indian sources, are also likely to be started very soon.

Munitions and supply. INDIA always had a few ordnance factories, but is now producing artillery and shells on a large scale. The manufacture of field guns, howitzers, machine-guns and gun-carriages has become a great industry. The rate of gun production is already 8 times the pre-war figure, while our production of shells is already 24 times the normal output, and will soon rise to 96 times the pre-war figure. The output of rifles and light machine-guns, again, is about 5 times what was produced before the war, while that of small arms ammunition now amounts to several millions of pounds per month.

The motor-vehicle industry has grown enormously, and INDIA is now producing all parts of military transport vehicles, except the chassis itself. The Tata Iron and Steel Company is now able to manufacture armour plate of the type and quality required for fighting vehicles, so successfully that experts acclaim the armoured vehicles made in INDIA by Indians as a definite improvement on those produced by other countries. Tata's have also recently established a new factory for the manufacture of aircraft components, having succeeded in producing the required kind of steel.

INDIA is also producing considerable quantities of *engineering material and electrical stores*, among which are large quantities of transformers and low-tension insulators. She hopes soon to be able to specialise in the manufacture of the tools required to make machinery, a world-shortage of which has sadly hampered war production hitherto.

Clothing, *tents*, *blankets*, *saddlery* and the various other stores required for the fighting forces are being produced in INDIA on a scale which was undreamt of before. 500,000 tons of *timber* were handled in 1941 for the manufacture of packing cases, ammunition boxes, railway sleepers and other requirements! We are now turning out nearly 60% of the local *medical stores* needed for the forces against 25% before the war.

The industrialisation of INDIA is thus increasing at an undreamt of rate. Out of initial chaos the completest co-operation has now been reached in this sphere, an achievement largely due to the work of Eastern Group Supply Council, on which sit representatives from INDIA, BRITAIN, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, South AFRICA and many other countries. This body provide a lesson in international co-operation which will outlast the war. "It is an ill-wind which blows nobody good," they say, and this war is bound to help INDIA to be industrially self-sufficing. Rapid industrialisation such as is now going on must radically alter many current social anomalies; it will give the Indian a new stature and a new outlook on life; a stature and outlook which the "Bevin boys" have already begun to exemplify.

We have been at war now for over two years. There have been times when the sky looked black and threatening, but there were never wanting stout hearts who declined to be depressed. They have fought on in faith and in hope, convinced of the justice of their cause and certain of eventual victory. Disasters there have

been, but no loss which has not been retrieved—at any rate, no military defeat which has paralysed further action. On the other hand, the enemy's plans have been upset, and their knavish tricks confounded; and though he may have been winning battles, the signs are clear that he is losing the war. That is the principal lesson which the two years which have elapsed since the war began emphasises. At the moment, we are hard-pressed in MALAYA, but the Japanese career will receive at no distant date an abrupt check, and it may not be long before they are rolled back the way they came, even as the Germans fall back before the Russians in the West. As Mr. Wickham Steed recently quoted from a South African authoress: "reflection steals light from the past to shed it on the future" and viewing the future in that light, he sees in front of us "an upward road to heights of endeavour and achievement from which there will be no looking back, save to count the steps by which humanity climbed to enter into its birthright."

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

17—1—42 to 24—1—42.

Russia.—As Sir Stafford Cripps said in a parting message on the eve of relinquishing his high office as British Ambassador in RUSSIA 'the Germans have lost the initiative'. Hitler's 'defensive battle' is a retreat: Hitler's winter-line has become an 'untenable' line on his own admission. Even since he took over command he has had the mortification to see his line pierced in no less than 8 places. It is indeed remarkable that in the depth of winter the Russians have been able to carry out a full-scale counter-offensive as effective as the German drive in summer. To this several causes have contributed: (1) the freshness of the Russian troops now newly brought to the front, compared with the exhausted and battered condition of the German armies (2) efficient Russian organisation (3) the competent organisation of Russian transport by the substitution of cavalry for machines and (4) the skill of the Russian Engineers in quickly repairing the railway lines devastated by the retreating enemy.

The plight of the German armies is indicated by the happenings in POLAND. POLAND has now become one vast hospital, and American Red Cross material exported for Polish relief is plundered for use in the German base hospitals.

More than 20 German Commanders are said to have fallen ill or died. This is a strange phenomenon at any time, and particularly at present in the wake of the Nazi retreat. Guderian is being treated for pneumonia; Brauchitsh has been operated on for heart-trouble; Raichenau has died of apoplexy; Bock is a prisoner in his own house; and nothing is known of Kleist; perhaps he has been disposed of in the usual Nazi way.

Along the entire front the Russian counter-attack is bearing fruit. LENINGRAD is now free to receive its supplies and reinforcements from outside. With the fall of MOJAISK the threat to MOSCOW has ceased. MOJAISK fell after hand-to-hand street-fighting, and now the Russians are said to have advanced to VAREIYA—13 miles south-east of MOJAISK. The defences of KHARKOV have been pierced, and Russian armies are knocking at the gates of TAGANROG on the Sea of Azov. In the CRIMEA, THEODOSIA has been re-taken for a second time; KOLACH has been captured and the victorious forces are heading towards PEREKOP.

The capture of MOJAISK is no doubt a major German defeat, but does not, as the *Times* cautions, necessarily mean 'the collapse of the German Moscow front', though it 'blunts' the salient. There is as yet no sign of a general rout. 'The next few weeks may prove of vital significance as showing to what extent the Russians are able, at the very height of winter, to keep up their pressure.'

Libya.—The event of the week is the unconditional Axis surrender of HALFAYA on Saturday, with 5,526 prisoners, including Major Bach, the senior German officer in-charge. The fall of HALFAYA, which once more pricks the bubble of German invincibility, completes the conquest of CYRENAICA, and opens up the excellent macadamised coastal road westward from SIDI-EL-BARRANI.

Rommel, anxious to avoid battle is withdrawing towards the Gulf of Sirte, pursued by the Imperial forces. The Sicilian bases of CATANIA, COMISO and SYRACUSE have been bombed.

MALTA with a total record so far of 1,300 raids, has had 300 of these attacks in December and January.

Far-East.—News from the Far-East continues to be unpleasant, TAVOY, in *South Burma*, with its tin and wolfram mines, its port and aerodrome has fallen to the enemy. Siamese and Japanese troops crossing the Burmese frontier at PALAU are now fighting along a 40-mile front on the MAYAWADDI—KAWKARAIK Road leading to MOULMEIN. The terrain is difficult but favourable for infiltration. The Siamese are said to be digging in at PALAU.

Against these reverses should be set (1) the destruction of 100 Japanese planes by the American Air Squadron over the BURMA Road and (2) the R. A. F.'s counter-attack on the THAI aerodrome at MESHOD.

In MALAYA, Australian troops in their first clash with the Japanese at NEGRI SEMBILAN have given a good account of themselves, killing from 800 to 1,000 of the enemy. Having obtained a footing on the south bank of the River Muar on the west coast, the Japanese are infiltrating evidently in preparation for a big offensive in the Muar area. Here fresh British, American and Indian troops have been assembled for a defence in depth. There are indications that our resistance on this front is increasing. (1) Air parity is being achieved; the R. A. F. has held up attacks on GEMAS; our aircraft have carried out successful offensive sweeps over MUAR and KUALA LUMPUR; American bombers have attacked the Japanese-held aerodrome at SUNGEI-PATANI. (2) Australians are strengthening the Muar area; Chinese guerillas are being organised in the rear of the enemy; and the enemy landings in JOHORE have been increasingly resisted. (3) At sea the Japanese are using old battleships, hiding their main fleet for an eventual encounter with the British and American Navies; American submarines have already sunk three Japanese transports off TOKYO Bay itself; and added to this, is the welcome though unconfirmed report of the arrival of three 30,000 ton battleships, British or American, off the straits of MALACCA.

In the DUTCH EAST INDIES, the enemy has attacked AMBOINA (MOLUCCAS), BALIK PAPAN (S. BORNEO), MEDARA, and SABANG (SUMATRA), and taken MINAHASSA. American bombers have attacked the aerodrome at MENADO (N. E. CELEBES) held by the Japanese.

The best news comes from the *Philippines*, where MacArthur's forces have successfully repulsed fierce Japanese attacks in the BATAN Peninsula. American Army bombers have also sunk a Japanese cruiser and tanker off JOLO.

In *China* the Japanese have suffered losses on three fronts—HONAN, HUPEH and SUIYAN(Inner MONGOLIA). Their forces routed at CHANGSHA are fleeing towards YOCHOW. In S. CHINA Japanese forces which advanced north from CANTON are withdrawing. Their forces on the Yangtse River are on the run. Two Japanese motor-boats have been sunk off the coast of KWANTUNG.

In *the Pacific*, while the R.A.F. have raided the Japanese mandated CAROLINES, the Japanese have bombed RABAUL, MADANG, SALAMANA and BULOLO in New GUINEA; and KAVIENG on New IRELAND in the BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO. Mr. A. S. Drakeford, the Australian Air Minister said that the landings in New GUINEA which constitute a threat to the Australian mainland were not unforeseen.

Japanese submarine activities are in evidence from CAPE HATTERAS to NEWFOUNDLAND off the North American east coast. German U-boats have also been observed for the first time off NEWFOUNDLAND.

The Pan-American Conference continues to hold its sittings at RIO DE JANEIRO with representatives from 21 Republics of whom 10 are already at war with the Axis; three more have severed diplomatic relations. CHILE is higgling over the price of her copper nitrates, and the ARGENTINE the 'dark horse' is still hesitating. According to the latest reports, even these two countries, have agreed upon rupture of relations with the Axis, ARGENTINE 'officially' but subject to ratification by its Congress and CHILE 'technically'.

Mr. Churchill. After taking a much-needed holiday for a week in FLORIDA, Mr. Churchill returned home on the 17th in a Berwick flying-boat, flying over a distance of 3,287 miles from BERMUDA to PLYMOUTH, and piloting the plane himself for a spell at 200 miles an hour. On his return he received a personal message of welcome from His Majesty.

Official. General Alan Fleming Hartley has been appointed Commander-in-Chief in INDIA. Sir Stafford Cripps has been succeeded by Sir Archibald Clark Kerr as British Ambassador in RUSSIA.

Huge Enemy Air Losses. The following figures show the number of planes lost on all the fronts in which the R. A. F., and Axis air forces have met, but exclude Axis losses to the Royal Navy. It

should also be noted that 439 R. A. F. pilots have been saved over and about BRITAIN :—

		Axis.	R. A. F.
1.	Over and about GREAT BRITAIN ...	3,692	887
2.	Over EUROPE	940	1,875
3.	Middle East	2,875	711
4.	Western Front	957	379
5.	Scandinavian Front	56	55
6.	At Sea	39	54
7.	In RUSSIA	15	1
		8,574	3,962

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES.

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
12—1—42 (Monday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes.)			
No information available.			
LIBYA.			
Motorised forces east of EL AGHEILA.			
Objectives at HALFAYA.			
The harbour and shipping at TRIPOLI.			
SICILY.			
The aerodrome at CATANIA.		4 planes.	
EASTERN FRONT. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Front.		1 plane.	4 planes.
FAR EAST—MALAYA. (By American and British planes).			
The Railway and other buildings at SINGORA.	Fires started.		
THAILAND.			
An aerodrome in SIAM.	2 planes damaged.		
13—1—42 (Tuesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
No information available.			
LIBYA.			
Enemy positions, fortifications and motor transport at HALFAYA.			
A column of enemy motor vehicles west of EL AGHEILA.	Fires and explosions started.		
The harbour area and the railway station at TRIPOLI.			

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
13—1—42 (Tuesday)—*cont.*			
MEDITERRANEAN.			
An enemy supply ship in the central MEDITERRANEAN.	Sunk.		
EASTERN FRONT. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Front.		8 planes.	22 planes.
FAR FAST—PACIFIC. (By American and British planes).			
THAILAND.			
Japanese occupied parts of THAILAND.			
NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES.			
Japanese shipping off TARAKAN.			
14—1—42 (Wednesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT :—			
The docks and shipyards at HAMBURG and EMDEN.			
LIBYA.			
Gun emplacements, ammunition dumps and motor transport vehicles at HALFAYA.	Many more planes damaged.		
Air combats over EL AGHEILA area.			2 Planes.
Military objectives in TOBRUK area.		No loss.	
EASTERN FRONT. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Front.		3 planes.	14 planes.
FAR EAST—MALAYA. (By American and British planes).			
PORT SWETTENHAM.			
THAILAND.			
Reconnaissance over enemy territory.			

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
15—1—42 (Thursday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT :—			
The Naval base at EMDEN.			
LIBYA.			
Gun emplacements and motor transport vehicles at HALFAYA.			
Aerial duel over TOBRUK and BENGHAZI.			2 planes.
Military objectives at EL AGHEILA and SIRTE.			
TRIPOLI.			
MEDITERRANEAN.			
An enemy supply ship escorted by a destroyer in the central MEDITERRANEAN.	Sunk.		
EASTERN FRONT. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodrome along the whole Front.		14 planes.	45 planes.
FAR EAST—THAILAND. (By American and British planes).			
An aerodrome in THAILAND.			
PACIFIC.			
CAROLINE Islands.		1 plane.	
16—1—42 (Friday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
No information available.			
LIBYA.			
Enemy positions and gun emplacements in the EL AGHEILA area			
Air combat over TOBRUK.		1 plane.	
EASTERN FRONT. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Front.		8 planes.	29 planes.
FAR EAST—MALAYA. (By American and British planes).			
Enemy transport on the GEMASTAMPIN road.			
THAILAND.			
An aerodrome in THAILAND.			

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
17—1—42 (Saturday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT :—			
The naval base at EMDEN. **The docks** at BREST.		3 planes.	
LIBYA.			
Enemy motor transport vehicles on the road between NOFILIA and EL AGHEILA.	Many vehicles damaged.		
Enemy motor transport on the roads east and west of SIRTE. **The harbour and Railway station at** TRIPOLI.			
MEDITERRANEAN.			
A tanker escorted by two destroyers in the central MEDITERRANEAN.		1 plane.	
EASTERN FRONT. (By Russian planes).			
Aircraft on the aerodromes and air combats along the whole Front.		3 planes.	15 planes.
FAR EAST—PHILIPPINES (By American and British planes).			
Jap positions north-west of MANILA.			
MALAYA.			
Enemy's rear in the MUAR area.			
18—1—42 (Sunday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
No information available.			
LIBYA.			
Enemy positions and gun emplacements in the EL AGHEILA area.			
SICILY.			
Tha aerodrome at CATANIA.			
The aerodrome at COMISO.			

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
EASTERN FRONT. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Front.			
German tanks, motor vehicles and ammunition dumps throughout the entire Front.	8 tanks, 550 Motor vehicles and 335 carts destroyed,		
FAR EAST—MALAYA. (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrome at SUNGEI PATANI.		2 planes.	9 planes.
CELEBES.			
An enemy flying field at MENADO.			

ENEMY Air Raids over ALLIED Territories.

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.	Aircraft losses for Allies.
13—1—42 (Tuesday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
AFTERNOON :—			
A place in North-east ENGLAND. **A costal town** in East ANGLIA.	No casualties but only damag		
MEDITERRANEAN.			
MALTA.	Slight damage.	2 planes.	
FAR EAST—NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES. (By Jap planes).			
BALIK PAPAN.			
MALAYA.			
SINGAPORE.	Civilians killed.		
14—1—42 (Wednesday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
No information available.			

ENEMY Air Raids over ALLIED Territories—*cont.*

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.	Aircraft losses for Allies.
14—1—42 (Wednesday).—cont.			
MEDITERRANEAN			
MALTA.			
FAR EAST—PHILIPPINES. (By Jap planes).			
The fortifications of CORRIGIDOR Island.		2 planes.	
MALAYA.			
SINGAPORE.			
15—1—42 (Thursday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
NIGHT :—			
North-east coast of ENGLAND.	Slight damage	1 plane.	
MEDITERRANEAN.			
MALTA.			
FAR EAST—NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES. (By Jap planes).			
AMBOINA (MOLUCCAS Islands).		2 planes.	2 planes.
PACIFIC.			
RABAUL (in NEW GUINEA).			
16—1—42 (Friday).			
BRITAIN (By German planes).			
No air activity at all.			
MEDITERRANEAN.			
MALTA.		1 plane.	
FAR EAST—MALAYA. (By Jap planes).			
SINGAPORE.			
BURMA.			
One town in South BURMA.			
17—1—42 (Saturday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
NIGHT :—			
South-west ENGLAND.		1 plane	
A place on the coast of East ANGLIA.			
MEDITERRANEAN.			
MALTA.			
FAR EAST—(By Jap plenes).			
MALAYA.			
SINGAPORE.			
CELEBES.			
The aerodrome at MEDARA.			
The harbour at AMBOINA.			
RUSSIA. (By German planes).			
MOSCOW.		7 planes.	
18—1—42 (Sunday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
NIGHT :—			
A place in South-west ENGLAND.	No damage.		
MEDITERRANEAN.			
MALTA.			
RUSSIA.			
MOSCOW.		3 planes	
FAR EAST. (By Jap planes).			
MALAYA.			
SINGAPORE.			
NEW GUINEA.			
REBAUL.			
19—1—42 (Monday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
NIGHT :—			
Two points in East ANGLIA	A few casualties.		
MEDITERRANEAN.			
MALTA			
FAR EAST. (By Jap planes).			
BURMA.			
MOULMEIN.			

SIDE LIGHTS.

THE EVIL MYSTIC. There have been several in history! Perhaps the most notable in recent times, before Adolf Hitler, was Rasputin. Some classes or peoples are so docile and credulous that the power of the necromancer is—while it lasts—as irresistible as it is baleful. As Rasputin swayed the Russian court and notables, so Hitler has mesmerised the youth of GERMANY, but for all such, success is an essential talisman, and in spite of having assumed supreme command of the Wehrmacht, Hitler is on the retreat on two fronts still!

By his very act, Hitler has sworn to 'stabilise' the Russian front for the rest of the winter (implying, naturally, compensating victories elsewhere); his very reputation is at stake; his talisman MUST be polished up. Is it any wonder therefore that headquarters and chancelleries all over the world hum with rumours of what Hitler will do next? Is it any wonder that "German strategy has now ascended to a mystic plane where logical analysis cannot be expected to follow"?

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WHAT NEXT? Hitler has before now achieved the seemingly impossible—he has certainly dared greatly, and his successes have been rewarded by an 'infallibility' reputation among his own people, and a defeatist mentality among many peoples who might otherwise have opposed his notions. Lest the great idol's feet of clay become too patent, we may expect Hitler's next stroke to be on the grand scale which alone will appeal to the gross and grandiose in the German character. (It is a common place that the British lose all their battles but win wars. Surely it is equally maintainable that the Germans win resounding victories, only to crash in irretrievable disaster!)

To stage the great 'come-back' there seem to be four possibilities, and they may be separate or combined. They are :—

(i) An invasion of BRITAIN on a gigantic scale such as so many prophets at Home foretell.

(ii) A taking-over of SPAIN and PORTUGAL and their formation into a Latin Block, with ITALY.

(iii) An attempt to save the North African situation by bullying the French into surrender of their fleet, and the North African ports (BIZERTA, ORAN etc.)

(iv) A new attempt to conquer the CAUCASUS and IRAN, with the Persian Gulf and INDIA as further objectives.

Any or all of these, are, as we say, on the cards, but...

as regards (i) BRITAIN is very fully aware of this risk; she will not be caught napping; and the necessarily huge concentrations required in the closely watched North Sea and Atlantic ports can hardly be effected before late Spring—

as regards (ii) there are as yet no reliable reports of important German troop concentrations in the Pyrenees; neither Franco himself, nor industrial SPAIN, nor even a large proportion of the military caste, are behind the Spanish Nazi, Suner—

as regards (iv) The Russians look like removing a most valuable German stepping-stone by the recapture of the CRIMEA. A new method of approach to the CAUCASUS would have to be devised—at TURKEY'S expense!—and TURKEY will fight *any* aggressor!

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WRETCHED VICHY. Only (iii) above has not been commented on—because it is our amateur choice of likelihoods.

Two or three recent developments lead us to this conclusion.

(i) MALTA has had a terrible gruelling from the air for the last month or so. Its importance as a thorn in the Axis flesh, in respect of African and Mediterranean ambitions, has been heavily underlined.

(ii) A man called Pucheu heads a purely pro-German party in FRANCE. Darlan may hate the British, and has recently included the Americans in his list of 'public enemies,' but he is an extremely ambitious man, and would ordinarily not care to be submerged in a mob of 'collaborators' for fear of losing personal ascendancy. Yet lately he has been parleying with Pucheu and De Brion; he has followed a 'purge' of the French Navy, with the sacking of 41 French generals; in short he is putting himself in a position to hand over the armed forces of Vichy to FRANCE immediately the opportunity is ripe.

(iii) So feeble has become the influence and character of Pétain that it is doubtful whether he would now resign (or whether it would matter much if he did, or didn't), even if the stages of adhesion to the Axis which he has so often sworn to resist were signed, sealed and delivered over his head!

(iv) For the whole present Vichy gang, the German-Italian bribes will be harder than ever to resist, because the Pucheu-Laval clique,

with their newspapers, banks, and industries duly organised, would like nothing better than to turn out the "Old Men" and pocket every bribe that is going!

(*Post-script.* Read the article reprinted in the "Mail" of Jan. 19th, from Stephen King-Hall's Newsletter.)

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AIR-PARITY-AND BETTER. The U. S. A. Office of Production Management has published the result of careful and secret enquiries into Axis aircraft-production figures.

The monthly output of aircraft *of all kinds* of GERMANY is 2,250, of ITALY 600, and of JAPAN 850 making a total of 3,700, to which may be added, they say, some 300 *per mensem* from German-occupied countries, a grand total of 4,000 planes a month. Allied figures are a closely-guarded secret, but most observers agree that *at the present moment*, the combined output of British, American and Russian factories of *first-line planes* is already larger than the Axis *total*. It certainly needs to be, because we have seen that the R. A. F. is still too small to add the Japanese to other enemy air-forces to which they are superior! When we look at Mr. Roosevelt's latest production figures, however, this 'snag' can only be very temporary, for from this year, American production *alone* will outstrip the whole of the Axis production, *irrespective of* the contributions from BRITAIN and RUSSIA.

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THE BEST-LAID SCHEMES...! Hitler can be accused of many things, but he can never be accused of being unable to think big!

Review 1941, and see the grandeur of the Axis design even while you rejoice at its failure!

Hitler's programme for 1941 is now completely revealed. He intended to thrust through the BALKAN PENINSULA and overawe or overrun TURKEY, while EGYPT and the MIDDLE EAST were being conquered from LIBYA.

Next, RUSSIA was to be overwhelmed, so that the riches of the Don Basin, the CRIMEA and the CAUCASUS might supply the German war-machine with inexhaustible reserves of materials.

Simultaneously, JAPAN was to be driven into war in the Pacific, so as to confront BRITAIN, and AMERICA, with problems they could not solve without interference with their own European commitments.

It was a grand design—but it crashed! Here are the 'tank-traps' into which the monstrous German vehicle blundered.

The heroism of the Greeks and Yugoslavs which delayed the conquest of the BALKAN PENINSULA, and therefore postponed, fatally, the inauguration of the invasion of RUSSIA.

The gallant, albeit forlorn, resistance of the British forces in GREECE and CRETE, which gave us time to crush the German intrigues in IRAQ, IRAN and SYRIA.

The third, and greatest, was the astonishing resistance of the Russians, who have now forced Hitler to leave his armies exposed to the agonies of a Russian winter.

And lastly, the mistiming of the Japanese *blitz*.

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A DREAM SHATTERED. It may seem rather 'wishful' to dub JAPAN's successful, doubt, as 'mistimed'. The fact is that although JAPAN can do a lot of damage, cause a lot of anxiety, and offer grave obstacles, to the Allies and the Empire and their reckonings as to the date of final victory, she cannot now solve Hitler's problems for him, nor can GERMANY solve JAPAN's problems! The 'grand design' is split into two disjointed halves, and the now co-ordinated might of four major powers, and twenty-two others, which has already shown itself able to handle one of the situations, will within this year be able to handle both, either separately or simultaneously. This is how an most experienced international commentator, Mr. Wickham Steed, regards things any how, for he says, *tout court*, in a recent broadcast; "In 1942, and at the latest in 1943, the German half (*of the 'grand design'*) will be wrecked beyond repair. At the end of 1942, if not earlier, the Japanese half should be within sight of collapse. The UNITED STATES, BRITAIN, CHINA and the N. E. I.—to say nothing of RUSSIA—will solve the Japanese problem in such a fashion that it will be pure tragedy for the people of JAPAN".

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WE GROW. So keen and intelligent is the interest which the people of this State take in the war that the Darbar feel it no longer equitable that PUDUKKOTTAI only should have an Information Bureau. Six *mofussil* branches have therefore been started, and they are in full swing, with local committees, lectures, and offices stocked with war-literature, maps, charts and posters.

A distinguished visitor to the State has recently commented favourably on the level of interest, co-operation and stoutness of heart exhibited by Pudukkottians during these times of stress, and rightly points out that a Government which shares with its subjects the most punctual information about the vital matters of the day, has its own reward in the loyalty and willingness of an informed and confident public.

ARMY CAREERS OF FAR EAST COMMANDERS.

NAZI TRIBUTE TO GENERAL WAVELL.

NEW G. O. C. FOR BURMA.

VARIED EXPERIENCE OF SIR HENRY POWNALL.

by

Sidney Horniblow, Feature Editor of the **Daily Mail**, *London.*

(In a recent B. B. C. talk).

If you join the British Army with the idea of being a soldier for life, with the idea of making the Army your career, you can be pretty certain that you will have to spend a good many years out East. Now that Japan's attack has opened up a new theatre of war, we see the advantage of this Eastern training which so many of our soldiers have had.

The three men, our three chief leaders in the new campaign, have all spent many years of their Army life in gaining first-hand experience of just those very conditions which they are going to meet in the present war with Japan.

Let us have a look at the men themselves. Wavell, Pownall and Hutton—those are the three.

In the first place, Wavell. It is very gratifying to those of us in Britain who made such a hero of Wavell in the early days of the war, to see that he has so soon been given the chance to take active command again of a vital theatre of war. Remember those spectacular victories of his in the first British advance into Libya. Why, at that time no other General had captured the public heart quite so completely as Wavell had. Wavell was the man.

And then last July he was suddenly switched from his Middle East Command to take charge in India. It came as a shock to us, and then we remembered that, well, he fought five campaigns, and it was probably the wisest thing to do to give him a rest. Now we see the importance of that move.

General Wavell is 58—he has been described as a war genius. Hitler's General Keitel calls him our cleverest General.

Wavell has the look of a man of action. That firm mouth of his, it is clear-cut. He has the keen eye and the large nose and chin of the man who gets things done. You must not mistake that monocle that he wears sometimes as any touch of affectation, for Wavell unfortunately lost an eye in France in the last war, and that explains the monocle.

If you were to visit him at G. H. Q., you would probably find him working in his shirt-sleeves, and you would love to hear him talk—he is a

brilliant speaker. You have probably read some of his books—he is a first class writer, and his great friend, Allenby, provided him with one of his most thrilling stories.

UNORTHODOX IN METHODS.

Even when he was at school at Winchester, Wavell was always wanting to play at toy soldiers. It was in the Boer War that he received his commission and then began a long series of campaigns. He served on the North-West Frontier of India, he served in France, and then later on he went as Military Attaché with the Russian Army in the Caucasus. After that, he joined the Egyptian Expeditionary Force and thus began his long association with Allenby.

Wavell is never afraid of being unorthodox in his methods. He is a great believer in youth and new ideas. He says that a good infantryman should be a compound of a poacher, cat-burglar and gunman. A good commander should have a touch of the gambler, and he says a good young General will usually beat a good old one.

He is wholeheartedly in favour of mechanisation, and he believes that no Army Officer should hold high command until he has put in at least six months in close co-operation with the Royal Air Force.

You get a good idea, I think, of the spirit of the man in his own words: "We stand firm", he says, "whatever happens—dictators fade away, but the British Empire never dies".

Lt.-GENERAL HUTTON.

Now, under him in Burma for strategic purposes, we have appointed as General Officer Cammanding Lt.-General Thomas J. Hutton, who was Chief of the General Staff in India. Hutton is regarded as one of the outstanding officers of the brilliant staff which has been formed in India since the war broke out.

Hutton himself is a young man—he is only 51. He received his commission in the Royal Artillery in 1909. He was wounded three times in the last war and gained several decorations, including the Military Cross and bar.

It is not often that a man meets his wife on the battle-field, but General Hutton did. She was a young Scottish doctor, and they met in Serbia. Mrs. Hutton still continues her medical work, and only two years ago she left London to join her husband in India, where she is now the head of a large hospital organisation.

General Hutton gained quick promotion in the years of peace between the two wars. He was a Major in 1927, a Colonel in 1930 and Major-General in 1938. He had a spell in Palestine until the year the war began when he went to India.

SIR HENRY POWNALL.

And now what about our new Commander-in-Chief in the Far East Lt.-General Sir Henry Pownall? He had a very early introduction to Japan. His mother took him there when he was a little baby only three months old. His father, by the way, was the man who built Japan's principal railways.

Pownall as a child was taught to speak Japanese as well as English. It is rather appropriate that he should be the man who is now leading the fight against the Japanese.

Once again, it is the story of a young commander. Pownall is only 54. We have spoken of him here as one of the British Army's bright young men, one of its discoveries. As a matter of fact, he has had an incredibly varied experience in his Army career. Time and again, he has been picked out and promoted over the heads of men many years his senior.

He is a keen, alert man, with a lively twinkling eye and a clear logical mind. He is a Londoner too, though he has not spent much of his life in London. Altogether he has had a good 30 years' artillery service.

EARLY CAREER.

He was brought to England from Japan to be educated at the famous Public School of Rugby, and then went to the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich. He was among the first 15 students of his year when he was there.

His first foreign service was as a subaltern in the Royal Horse Artillery at Lucknow. For eight years he served with artillery both in England and in India, and then came the war. He served in France, Belgium, won the D. S. O. and the Military Cross. He was in command of a battery in France for two years of the fiercest fighting. And then after the war he took up various appointments in England, until the time came for him to go East again, to the North-West Frontier, where he took part in the 1930 operations, and then back home again to England.

And then came the second World War. Pownall was made Chief of the General Staff of the British Expeditionary Force under Lord Gort. When France collapsed, Pownall returned to England to become the first Inspector-General of our Home Guard. After that he went across to Northern Ireland to command the British troops there, and then last May, he was made Vice-Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

Pretty good record that, for one man, and a fairly young man too, as soldiers go. Sir Henry Pownall faces now, probably, the toughest job of the lot.

(Since this talk was delivered General Wavell has been appointed Supreme Commander in the South-west Pacific area, with General Pownall as his Chief of Staff.)

DR. BENES ANALYSES WAR SITUATION.
NEED FOR COMMON FRONT.
WHY ITALY SHOULD BE TACKLED FIRST.
GERMANY MUST BE BEATEN ON BATTLE-FIELD.

by

Dr. Eduard Benes, President of Czechoslovakia, in the "Manchester Guardian".

ON December 7 Japan attacked the United States and the British Empire, and the United States of America entered the second World War. Politically and militarily, this is the culminating event of the war. Everything which the Axis still gains in this war—the victories which it may win, the blows which it may deal to the Allies—will be, though painful and unpleasant, only temporary local episodes. Potentially, in my view, the war is decided, even though it would be mad or criminal not to continue to exert our every effort and endeavour to the highest possible extent in order to win the war as swiftly and decisively as possible. For further development of the war I consider the following facts to be important:

(1) Germany's defeat on the Russian front is a factor of far-reaching range, both in the military and the moral and psychological fields. Germany will no longer be able completely to recover from this blow. General von Brauchitsch admitted in military consultation at the end of November that by November 15, 1941, 1,075,000 German soldiers had been killed on the Eastern Front, which means some 3,000,000 further casualties. At the same time, he declared that Germany must realise that in both the military and political fields she could no longer win the war; it was possible, he said, that she might not entirely and necessarily lose the peace, if the Germans were helped by political and diplomatic errors of the Anglo-Saxons. His removal is, therefore, explicable. And from the military point of view the taking over the command by Hitler must in the long run mean military defeat. I am now inclined to expect from Hitler desperate, nervous, furious and fanatical, and thus also ill-advised, military and political actions; therefore, it is necessary to be on guard iu every way in both political and military spheres.

(2) The great German military successes up to the summer of 1941 concealed from the Allied public the fact that Hitler's Germany is in essence far weaker than imperial Germany. Nazi Germany began the war already disintegrated from within; she remains disintegrated in spite of the apparent solidity of the Nazi Party, and the undeniable unifying force of the German military machine. Dissensions between the Nazi Party and the German army are great; equally great are the dissensions between the Generals of the older Prussian school and the young Nazified Generals, who for the most part are in command of the modern Panzer units. Present-day Germany is internally

corrupted to an incredible extent; her administration is disorganised and ineffective; her economic condition is very bad; and morally and socially the whole of present-day German society is on the edge of an abyss. Germany's fall at the end of this war will show up this reality in the most terrible colours. But I agree with Mr. Churchill: it would be a great mistake to expect from that an interior collapse. Germany must be beaten on the battle-fields.

(3) The victory in Libya will strengthen the prestige and power and the military superiority of Great Britain in the Near East. It is essential to continue even after this victory in the correct strategy that has been followed so far. Italy is the weakest point in the Axis, and hence, in accordance with the principles of correct strategy, never-ceasing attacks on that country must at all costs be continued. Italy will be the first of the members of the Axis to fall.

(4) Japan will continue to have a number of successes for some weeks or months. The Allies must bear this and hold out. In spite of the fact that the whole war is one and indivisible, the main battle-field is, and will remain, Europe, and the war will be decided on the European Continent. With the defeat of Germany, the whole Axis will fall.

(5) One remaining obscure point in Germany's possible manoeuvres is Marshal Pétain's France, and Spain. A swift agreement on military collaboration, a common front and common policy between the United States, the Soviet Union and Great Britain (and, of course, other Allies too), and clear emphasis on this common decisive and energetic policy which will stop at nothing to gain victory, will finally remove all danger from this side.

My conclusion from this analysis of the present state of war is favourable. I only hope that the Allied Great Powers, together with other Allies, will in fact soon bring about a genuine agreement on a common and united waging of war, and that they will soon agree on the main principles of future peace, and will mutually pledge themselves to act in common and united solidarity, not only in war but also in peace.

DWINDLING LUFTWAFFE.
TOO MANY FRONTS TO LOOK AFTER.
LIMITED RANGE OF PLANE TYPES.
SEVERE TRIAL STILL AHEAD IN RUSSIA.

by

*The Diplomatic Correspondent of the "**Daily Telegraph.**"*

Goering's *Luftwaffe*, with which Hitler tried to terrify the world, is a dwindling force. Its losses have been on so great a scale that German

industry, even aided by the factories of the occupied countries, has not been able to fill the gaps. The squadrons still operating are known to be below their establishment strength.

Not less than one-third of the total German force is back in the Reich, where efforts are being made to reform shattered squadrons and repair damaged machines. According to reliable estimates, a further third is still engaged on the Russian front. It is calculated that the Russian Air Force has established a superiority of two to one over the *Luftwaffe*, whose losses on a very conservative showing have amounted to not less than 8,000 planes in the last six months. Of the remainder, probably one-fifth is dispersed along the western seaboard of Europe from Norway to Northern France, and this force includes some 400 to 500 fighters held there with the object of reducing the scale of attack which the Bomber Command can bring to bear against Germany and strategic targets in the occupied countries. The rest of the *Luftwaffe*—approximately one-seventh—is engaged in the Mediterranean Sea endeavouring to give support to Rommel's Afrika Korps and harass Allied shipping.

Experience has shown that the **German Army was built and trained on the assumption that it could at all times count on overwhelming support from the Air Force.** It is therefore clear that the *Luftwaffe's* present plight may in itself govern Germany's ability to resume the offensive in Europe. Not only is Germany experiencing great difficulty in mobilising sufficient skilled man-power in the factories to maintain the front-line strength of her Air Force, but there is some evidence to suggest that new types which should now be coming into service are not yet in quantity production. Germany started the war on the assumption that the limited range of types then in production, with modifications and improvements, would prove adequate to win the war. There was no dispersal of effort on a large variety of specialised types for different purposes. The *Luftwaffe*, as equipped, was expected to perform every function allotted to it on any given day. These might range from action in support against enemy shipping, to the bombardment of towns, ports and docks, and even to the transportation of supplies. No provision seems to have been made for big four-engined bombers, and the present striking power of Germany's bomber force is probably less than that of the R. A. F. There is no reason to believe that Germany will be able to redress the disadvantage.

Against this background of dwindling air power, it must be recognised that Germany, engaged against Russia, is now at the opening of the severest trial which has ever faced any military machine. Winter is only now starting in its full power. The German army is neither clothed nor equipped for such a campaign. Russia, employing fresh troops well seasoned to these conditions, and splendidly equipped according to all impartial observers,

will try to prevent the Germans from stabilising on any "winter line." Recent statements by German spokesman suggest that they may succeed. Others qualified to speak of the trial to which the *Luftwaffe* is exposed have admitted that **all reserves are being employed against the Russians, and frequently have to return to a counter-attack many times in one day.**

While every country engaged is at pains to conceal its own actual production figures, it is probably true to say that **Allied aircraft production to-day has already outstripped that of the Axis.** This disparity should now increase steadily and rapidly in favour of the Allies. Since man-power and production are the governing factors in the present World War—assuming equally good generalship on both sides—it is worth while to recall that the Allies can look to the support of almost 1,500,000,000 people, against which the Axis can pit no more than 300,000,000, many of whom are already in open revolt against their temporary rulers. As the result of the combined weight of economic blockade and R. A. F. attacks, the production of German armaments has recently shown a slight fall below the peak level reached last spring.

TYPHUS MENACE IN NAZI EUROPE.
ORIGIN IN POLISH GHETTOS.
RESULT OF NAZI-CREATED CONDITIONS.

by

A Medical Observer.

The Germans are beginning to reap part of the harvest they have sown. They have spent two years in a systematic attempt to annihilate Poland and the Poles.

Within the country itself no section of the population has been so harshly treated as the Jews. They have been herded together in ghettos without the means of livelihood or the possibility of turning themselves into a self-supporting community. They have been deliberately deprived of even the starvation rations allowed to their non-Jewish compatriots. They have been denied fuel and clothes. The German-inspired *Krakauer Zeitung* admits that "up to March, 1941, 60,000 Jews have been evacuated from Cracow. They are being housed in separate districts of the General Government. Those left in the city live in a special part of the town called Podgorze, and are not permitted to leave the district without the permission of the authorities. Investigations show that mentally defective and sick people are numerous and that widespread infection exists".

DISEASE SPREADING FAR AND FAST.

To-day typhus is spreading over German-occupied Europe. In Poland, in the Ukraine and in the Baltic States it has reached serious proportions. It started—on German admission—in the Polish ghettos.

In October of this year, at a Council meeting of the Health Department of the Government-General, Dr. Buermann reported that the seasonal incidence of spotted typhus in the Warsaw District was considerably higher than usual—the chief source being the Jewish quarter. He went on to say that as Polish doctors had shown themselves quite incapable of dealing with the situation, the German Administration had to set up "plague centres" for disinfecting Jewish houses, delousing, etc.

MEASURES UNSUCCESSFUL.

These measures were not passed from altruistic motives. They were intended to prevent the disease from spreading to the German community, and what is even more dangerous, to the German army. Like all hastily improvised preventative measures, they were unsuccessful. Conditions created by the Germans in the countries they had conquered were so bad that typhus steadily gained ground.

In November a police notice appeared in the *Danziger Vorposten* forbidding persons to congregate in the urban district of Goynia, and making compulsory the notification of fever complaints and the presence of lice. By December, the Germans had publicly recognised the general danger. Not only were whole districts of Poland isolated as a precaution, but German officials and settlers were specially warned that spotted typhus was prevalent in winter as in summer, and given a long list of the measures they should take for their safety, including that of "avoiding all public places and conveyances and all contact with Polish natives."

JEWISH DOCTORS TREAT GERMANS.

Simultaneously, **Jewish doctors,** nurses and sanitary workers in Warsaw **were recalled**, and even allowed to work in German hospitals. In the German-occupied part of the Ukraine, all schools have been closed indefinitely as "serious epidemics have broken out". The population of this territory, and those of the Baltic States and North-eastern Poland, have been forbidden to travel into the Reich. German officials and military officers arriving from these countries have to undergo a period of "quarantine". Mobile delousing squads with special vans are working hard in the regions bordering on Russia where the Germans are organising winter quarters for their soldiers. **Leave for both officers and men from the Eastern Front has been cancelled.**

GERMANS THEMSELVES UNLIKELY TO ESCAPE.

Conditions in Europe are such that in spite of German vigilance the disease has every chance of spreading. Already it is reported to be raging in a number of Rumanian units stationed in the area of the Bug river. The

lowered resistance of the peoples of Western Europe, which has already led to an enormous increase in such illness as tuberculosis, diphtheria, etc., will make them an easy prey. If this happens, there is little chance of escape for the Germans themselves.

LACK HUMOUR, LACK HUMANITY!

[*The World Review* (*November 1941*) *prints three extracts from recent German newspapers which naively illustrate certain natural traits. Should one laugh—or weep?!*]

FIFTY DAYS PER KISS.

A thirty-two year old widow living at Kiel (late husband a soldier) visited friends in the country, where a French officer prisoner was working on their farm. She allowed him to kiss her three times in spite of the warnings of her host that such conduct is reprehensible and punishable. The weeping woman was sentenced to five months' imprisonment for her irresponsible levity.

Bodenseerundschau.

CHARITY—NAZI VERSION.

A Polish nun, Mother Superior of a night home, was sentenced to twelve years' penal servitude for obtaining more meat and butter than required for the home. She gave away surpluses to Poles, nuns and occupants of the home for the aged. She also wrote a letter in Polish to her convent containing untrue statements about the Germans.

Ostdeutscher Beobachter.

UNDIGNIFIED FOOTBALL FANS.

A regrettable recent incident necessitates our pointing out that all prisoners of war remain our enemies. Every intimate association with them is forbidden, also undue interest may not be shown in them. Belgian and French prisoners of war housed in a Kiel building recently played football in the yard. There is nothing against that, but it is regrettable that many German Volkgenossen ventured to line up outside the iron bars and loudly applauded every goal. Such behaviour, even if done thoughtlessly, is undignified, and must hurt every decent German's pride. Things like this may not be repeated!

Kieler Neueste Nachrichten.

ARMS AND THE MAN.

[*With acknowledgments to the New Statesman and Nation.*]

This fascinating story is said to come from a Russian Army report: During the fighting round Kremenchug a German officer of the reserve was

taken prisoner. He was a man of nearly fifty, weak from loss of blood, the forefinger of his left hand torn off by a bomb splinter, and he was so exhausted that many hours after his capture he was still unable to answer the questions put to him by a Russian officer in a small village inn behind the lines.

The following particulars were at last elicited by patient interrogation: Profession: A school-teacher of Munich. Member of the Nazi Party since 1928. Asked what he was fighting for, he shrugged his shoulders wearily, then broke into long and convulsive sobbing. The Russian officer offered cigarettes, but the German declined them. He was then put at a table in a corner of the room and given paper and pencil in the hope of distracting his mind. "If you think of anything to say, write it down," he was told.

Left alone, he made a few marks on the paper—circles, figures, etc.—then began writing. When the Russian interrogator returned, three hours later, he found the following manuscript, headed "Won and Lost." Under this title was written in a shaky hand: "What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

Then followed a series of paired words, arranged as though in a dictionary:—

Peace ...	barbarism	Gaiety ...	tragic heroism
Quietude ...	army life	Contentment.	fanatical obsession
Reverence ...	hatred	Piety ...	brutality and cynicism
Soap ...	stinks	Moderation ...	false pathos
Blood ...	pus	Enjoyment ...	misery
Freedom ...	compulsion	Man ...	beast
Culture ...	filth	Nature ...	dynamite
Individuality.	an army number	Life ...	death
Humour ...	grim earnest		

"I'm nuts," he muttered, as he handed the sheet to the Russian officer. The officer ran his eye over what was written. "No," he said, "you are on the road to sanity."

EUROPE'S REACTION TO U. S. ENTRY INTO WAR. POSITION ON NAZI HOME FRONT. CONDITIONS IN ITALY. ATTITUDE OF CONQUERED PEOPLES.

by

Lindley Fraser (In a recent B. B. C. talk).

SUPPOSE you were a citizen of Hitler's Reich, an ordinary German facing the third winter of this second World War. What would you be thinking to-day of the outlook for your country and for the world as a whole? During

the last ten days you have acquired a new friend and a new foe—Japan is on your side, America is against you. What is your reaction ?

Well, it is too soon to answer this question with certainty, but I think that we can construct a fairly accurate picture of what is in the mind of the average German, when he learns that he is at War with America.

First, remember that he still believes that he is fighting the war in self-defence—that is a piece of propaganda that has been dinned into his ears ever since the war began. Indeed, before the war began, Dr. Goebbels had for some years been hard at it proclaiming that Germany was threatened with encirclement and with war, and would one day have to defend herslef. I think he has probably succeeded in this particular job.

DEPRESSING EFFECT.

Those many Germans who listen in to the B. B. C. get a chance of hearing the other side of the story, and will by now have begun to have doubts of Germany's complete innocence in this second World War. But they are not yet seriously shaken in their belief in Hitler as a man of peace and honours ; so when Hitler tells them that America has been deliberately engineering war against Germany they will probably believe him, and they will accept Hitler's declaration of war against America as simply a logical measure of self-defence.

They still trust Hitler to see them through a war, even against the three largest and most powerful nations in the world. And yet I think there is no doubt that recent events have exercised a deep and depressing effect upon German public opinion.

It is true that the Germans have been warned for months by now that the United States might at any moment enter openly into the ranks of their enemy. The idea of America fighting against them—well, last summer it was an active source of alarm and even terror, but by now it has somewhat lost its edge as it has become a familiar prospect. The Germans simply regard it with resignation and despondency rather than with panic, but two things they cannot get rid of, or suppress.

THE PARALLEL.

One is the recollection of the year 1917, when the entry of America into the last war killed Germany's chances of obtaining a negotiated peace, and made the Kaiser's final defeat absolutely certain. Few Germans will fail to be conscious of the grim parallel between 1917 and the present day. They will certainly try to persuade themselves that things are different this time, with Italy and Japan as allies and France as a friendly neutral.

But, remember, to the average German, America, the United States, has always been a kind of El Dorado—a dreamland of great riches and immense, inexhaustible strength. The entry of America into the war must convey to

him that a German victory will, at the best, be long delayed. It may suggest to him, for the first time since the war began, that victory will perhaps never come to Germany at all.

But that is for the time being no more than a foreboding in his mind—a cloud on the horizon as large as a man's hand. For the time-being, public opinion in Germany is depressed and resigned, but not defeated. Many months of war against America must pass before there is a real move against Hitler and the Nazis from inside Germany.

PROSPECT IN ITALY.

From this point of view things are far further advanced in Italy than in Germany. The Italians are faced with a hopeless prospect, whichever way the war ends, and though they are not yet quite ripe for overthrowing Mussolini—a step which would merely lead to the tightening of the grip of the Gestapo on their country—yet let the British win really crushingly in North Africa, and the spark of revolt in Italy may flare up into a consuming flame.

From the Italian point of view, moreover, the entry of the United States into the war as their enemy must seem positively tragic, because of all the personal ties which bind the citizens of Rome and Milan and Naples to their relatives and friends in New York. I doubt if the Fascists will be able to work up much war hatred against America. The real enemy, and the Italians are beginning to know it, is the Nazis, and Mussolini is the Nazi's dupe and stool-pigeon.

Now what about the other peoples of Europe ? Again I have to speak by inference rather than on the basis of established facts, but one or two things are fairly certain. We can take it that everybody in occupied Europe, and almost everybody in neutral Europe, wants Germany to be defeated. The exception is the professional Fascist, the man who is personally committed to he Nazi cause, and who stands to be assassinated when the Nazis are beaten.

"FENCE SITTERS".

He represents a tiny percentage of the whole population. What of the others, the vast majority of people throughout Europe who hate the Nazis and would like to see them beaten ?

These people have to be divided into two groups, the "out and outers" and the "fence sitters". The "fence sitters" represent all those people who would like us to win but do not dare to say so, much less to do anything about it, lest it be the worse for them in case of a German victory. You find such people in prominent positions all over Europe, but perhaps their chief home is west and south-west of the German frontier. They are still defeatists about the Allied chances, these "fence sitters".

Russian successes on the Eastern front and, to a less extent, British successes in North Africa, have given them a good deal to think about during the last few days, but they do not yet believe—no, they dare not believe—that the Nazi war machine can be broken.

REKINDLED HOPES.

What will their reaction be to the extension of the war ? I think it will be to rekindle their hope. They will not yet share our faith that the Germans will be beaten, but they will no longer take a Nazi victory for granted. And unless things were to take a sudden turn for the worse in Russia, while remaining as serious as they are in the Far East, I expect to see a steady stream of former "fence sitters" now joining the ranks of the "out and outers."

These are the people who long for an Allied victory, who believe that it will be one day achieved, and who are prepared to do everything they reasonably can to help to bring it about. They represent the vast majority of the population in the occupied countries, large numbers of people in France, and a sprinkling of courageous individuals in Germany and Italy.

U. S. ENTRY INTO WAR.

About their attitude there can be no doubt whatever. America represents to them almost more than the British Commonwealth of Nations, the land of liberty and hope. With America in the war on their side their last doubts about ultimate victory will have been laid at rest. During the first half of last week they were a little worried lest America should be so taken up with the war in the Pacific as to stop sending help to her friends in Europe. That anxiety was largely stilled when President Roosevelt laid down in his fire-side chat "that this was one war, not two". Their anxiety was finally disposed of when America and Germany came to be formally at war with one another.

Now all our millions of friends in Europe know that they will not be forgotten. They will face the weary months, perhaps years, of oppression and suffering which lie ahead with renewed strength and determination, waiting for the day when they, too, can play their full part in driving out the hated aggressors.

HOW JAPAN SPOILED GERMAN PLAN.
ATTACK ON RUSSIA NOT MADE.
NAZI MACHINATIONS AGAINST TOKYO.
PREVENTING JAP DOMINANCE IN ASIA.

Highly placed Britons who have succeeded in getting out of Shanghai and Hongkong since the outbreak of war, and who have passed through Singapore, tell stories which pieced together show the extent of Nazi brains behind Japan's many-pronged *blitz* attack on December 7 (cabled H. A.

Standish to the *Daily Telegraph* on December 31). They also show not only that an important part of the German design involving a simultaneous Japanese attack on Russia miscarried, but that the **Germans are already preparing to double-cross Japan** in accordance with the familiar Nazi code.

The narrative of events begins with Germany's invasion of Russia in June last. It is common knowledge that she then tried her hardest to get Japan into the war. Immediately General Tojo became Premier, the Nazis began spreading their most expert propagandists and intriguers throughout the Far East. Controlling and directing their activities was Captain Wiedemann, who had been expelled from America for his Fifth Column activities. Accompanied by the German Ambassador, Ott, the 18-year-old son of Wiedemann, made a quick but thorough tour of the key-points in the Far East—Tokyo, Nanking, Shanghai, Bangkok and Tientsin, stepping off briefly at Saigon. His job was to organise Fifth Columnists and propagandists throughout the Far East.

ANXIOUS GERMANS.

The Nazis had planned carefully. But they were also anxious. In Russia things were going badly. As far as possible, this was kept from Japan's leaders. It was felt that the success of the planned *blitz* would save Germany's reputation in the eyes of the German people. What happened to Japan did not interest them, so long as something could be done on a spectacular scale as an offset to the inevitable defeat on the Russian front, **a defeat which the German High Command realised could not be hidden beyond November.**

A diversion was needed badly. The Japanese were to provide this by attacking Russia through Manchuria and her maritime provinces, and by launching *blitz* attacks on every possible world-known point throughout the Far East. **An essential to success was that no part of the plans should be left out.**

JAPAN DISAPPOINTS.

As the world knows, Japan launched spectacular attacks against Hongkong Pearl Harbour, the Philippines, Malaya and Thailand some hours before declaration of war.

But she did not launch the planned attacks against Russia.

The Nazis, who had stayed in the background worrying about the Libyan and the Russian position, were angry. Young Ott, left behind as Gestapo agent in Bangkok, did not fail to voice his anger. In Germany Hitler had to make an abject apology for the Russian débacle and delete from his speech heroics which he intended in praise of Japan's attack on Russia.

My informants have no doubt, from their conversations in Shanghai and Hongkong immediately after the outbreak of war, that Japan was afraid to attack Russia. They say that Japan would do everything possible to avoid a conflict with Russia.

PLAN TO WEAKEN JAPAN.

To that extent the Nazi plan to make use of the Japanese as military tools failed. My informants say that it is a plan aiming at the eventual weakening of Japan as a Pacific Power, so that she will be unable to defend her claims for territorial gains in the Pacific should Germany win the war. Already there is concrete evidence supporting the view that Germany is taking the longest-range view of her alliance with Japan for her own advantage.

Basing their propaganda and infiltration plans on Shanghai, within the past two months most of the large German industrial and commercial undertakings in the Far East have sent technicians and representatives to Indo-China, to prepare the ground for an extensive German commercial infiltration of France's colony. Plans are believed to be in hand for the erection of large plants and factories, with a view to the utilisation of Indo-China's vast material resources.

NAZIS WOO WANG CHING-WEI.

It is known also that the Germans have been cultivating the friendship of Wang Ching-Wei's puppet régime in Nanking, and have been extensively infiltrating into the administrative and commercial life of Tientsin. **There is little doubt in the minds of my informants that the Germans have never lost hope of being able to build up a Sino-German front against Japan.** In many places throughout China, their agents openly boast that they are using the Japanese for their own purposes. At Tientsin they have begun taking active steps in opposition to Japanese enterprises, which led to unpleasantness between Nazi agents and the Japanese.

People knowing the innermost intrigues of the Far East are confident that Germany is not concerned with Japan's part in the war, because, win or lose, she is determined not to let Japan become the dominant Axis partner in he Far East's future.

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State War Information Bureau.

LECTURE LXXIX—(*Batch 1*).

1942—

January	... 24, Saturday ...	Town Hall	... 6.30 p. m.
	25, Sunday ...	Puvarasakudi	... 6.00 p. m.
		Venkatakulam	... 6.30 p. m.
	26, Monday ...	Perungalur	... 6.00 p. m.
		Adanakkottai	... 6.30 p. m.

	27, Tuesday ...	College (A) English	...	10.15 a. m.
		Malampatti	...	6.00 p. m.
		Parambur	...	6.30 p. m.
	28, Wednesday.	C. S. M. High School	...	10.00 a. m.
		Rani's High School	...	10.15 a. m.
		College (B) Tamil	...	10.15 a. m.
		Tirugokarnam	...	5.30 p. m.
		Udayalippatti	...	6.00 p. m.
		Killukottai	...	6.30 p. m.
	29, Thursday ...	Arimalam	...	6.00 p. m.
		Keelanilaikkottai	...	6.30 p. m.
	30, Friday ...	Tirumayyam	...	6.00 p. m.
		Melur	...	6.30 p. m.

LECTURE LXXX—(*Batch 2*).

	31, Saturday ...	Town Hall	...	6.30 p. m.
February ...	2, Monday ...	Nachandupatti	...	6.00 p. m.
		Virachchilai	...	6.30 p. m.
	3, Tuesday ...	College (A) English	...	10.15 a. m.
		Kodumbalur	...	6.00 p. m.
		Viralimalai	...	6.30 p. m
	4, Wednesday.	C. S. M. High School	...	10.00 a. m.
		Rani's High School	...	10.15 a. m.
		College (B) Tamil	...	10.15 a. m.
		Vengalur	...	6.00 p. m.
		Konapattu	...	6.30 p. m.
	5, Thursday ...	Panayappatti	...	6.00 a. m.
		Rangiyam	...	6.30 p. m.
	6, Friday ...	Malaikkudippatti	...	6.00 p. m.
		Tulaiyanur	...	6.30 p. m.

Pudukkottai State War Information Bureau.

BRANCH OFFICES.

To facilitate the dissemination of correct war news the War Information Bureau are now establishing Branch Offices in the following six mofussil centres of the State.

1. RAYAVARAM.
2. PANAYAPATTI.
3. KARAMBAKKUDI.
4. ALANGUDI.
5. ANNAVASAL.
6. KIRANUR.

These are being provided with posters, maps, pictures, and various War literature in English and in Tamil and it is hoped that the public will make full use of the facilities provided.

Important Notice.

A

Well-known War Film

Prepared by

The British Government

Entitled

"ARMOURED CARS"

(Tamil version)

will be shown at the

VEST TALKIES, PUDUKKOTTAI

From 26-1-42 to 29-1-42.

The War Information Bureau warmly recommend it to the Public.

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai. 1000—24-1-42.